



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov.

DOE Launches Save Energy Now LEADER Program with 32 Companies

DOE has joined forces with 32 industrial companies to launch the Save Energy Now LEADER Program, which will provide technical assistance and resources to companies that pledge significant improvements in industrial energy efficiency. The 32 charter member companies from a broad spectrum of the U.S. industrial sector signed a voluntary pledge on December 2 to reduce their industrial energy intensity by 25% over the next decade. The industrial sector accounts for more than 18 million jobs in the United States, but it also consumes nearly 30% of the energy used nationwide and produces 27% of the country's carbon emissions.

The charter member companies agreed to establish energy use and energy intensity baselines and develop an energy management plan over the next 12 months. As indicated by the special "LEADER" designation, these companies are more than just first actors on the path to greater energy efficiency; they are serving as role models on an ongoing basis for others in the industrial sector. In return, the companies will receive access to select DOE resources, as well as national recognition for their energy management achievements.

The companies signing the pledge include 3M, AT&T, Bridgestone, Dow Chemical Company, Honeywell, Intel, Mohawk Industries, and Sherwin-Williams. At this time, only Volvo Trucks in Virginia has signed up for the program. For a complete list, see the [DOE press release](#).

Calendar of Events

January 13 - General Assembly convenes its 2010 Session

January 16 - Inauguration of new Governor

February 17 - University Computer Recycling Workshop, Temple University (EPA Region 3)

In Memoriam

Ann Masters, Director of the Clean Valley Council (Roanoke), passed away on Friday, December 18. In a recent CVC newsletter Ann posted the following: *"An unknown source once wrote, Measure your wealth not by the things you have, but by the things you have for which you would not take money."*

Condolences are offered to her family and friends.

Safe Disposal of Pharmaceuticals

DEQ has a website which addresses home pharmaceutical disposal and pharmaceutical collection events. Some pharmacies will take back unused medications, but they can only take non-controlled substances. Controlled substances (pain killers, narcotics, chemo drugs, etc.) can only be collected when law enforcement is present, so pharmacies can't take them. Home pharmaceuticals can be disposed of as described below, and this may be the easiest method for you to use at this time:

1. Empty the pill bottle into a closable plastic bag or container. Try not to handle the medications since some are absorbed through the skin. Crush the pills or dissolve them with liquid to render them unrecognizable as medications.
2. Mix in something undesirable (suggestions: used coffee grounds, used kitty litter) with the medications that will not attract pets or children to it. Seal the baggie or close the plastic container. An additional safeguard would be to put the baggie of medications into another container so that the contents cannot be seen.
3. Put the baggie or plastic container in the trash can.
4. Remove the label or mark out your identifying information on the pill bottle label. This step is extremely important. The personal information found on prescription pill bottles is all someone needs to commit a crime. The label has the name of the medication, along with the name and address of the patient. Some pharmacists provide an informational page that has your identifying information in with the prescription that should also be destroyed after use. Don't let yourself be a target of someone who may want your medications.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/vpdes/Microconstituents.html>

RecycleMania 2010

RecycleMania is a “friendly” annual competition that pits colleges and universities in a contest with cross town rivals and schools across the nation to see who can reduce, reuse, and recycle the most campus waste. It offers bragging rights and special awards made out of recycled materials to the winning schools.

Last year 4.7 million students and 1.1 million faculty and staff from 510 participating campuses collectively recycled or composted just over 69.4 million pounds of waste during the 10-week RecycleMania competition.

Registration for the competition runs now through January 14, 2010 and is open to students, student organizations, staff, faculty or facility managers at degree-granting colleges and universities and runs now through January 14, 2010. Registration is fast and easy and can be done online at www.recyclemania.org or by contacting the RecycleMania helpline at (843) 278-7686.

The contest begins January 17 and continues through March 27, 2010. Last year participating schools represented all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and for the first time, Canada. Virginia schools included VMI, ODU, Radford University, and Mary Washington and Longwood Colleges.

RecycleMania uses the competitive spirit and campus rivalries to motivate students who might not respond to other environmental messages. Though many schools have had recycling and waste prevention programs for years, studies have found that large volumes of recyclables still end up in the trash. RecycleMania raises both awareness and, at more than 80 percent of participating schools, increases recycling levels.

With each week's reports and rankings, participating schools can watch how their program stacks up against their competitors. They can watch as the results fluctuate, and determine how to rally their campus communities to reduce and recycle even more.

Starting with the 2009 competition, RecycleMania added both Myspace and FaceBook websites. The Myspace site is currently being updated for 2010 and can be viewed at www.myspace.com/recyclemania, and the 2010 Facebook site is under construction. These sites also allow RecycleMania coordinators to network and share promotional ideas.

RecycleMania is a project of the College and University Recycling Council (CURC) and is supported by U.S. EPA's WasteWise Program as well as by Keep America Beautiful.

For complete rules, information and to register go to: www.recyclemania.org or call RecycleMania's helpline at (843) 278-7686.

Information for those wishing to participate in RecycleMania is also available from Donna McGowan, recycling program manager for U.S. EPA mid-Atlantic region, at 215-814-5197 or mcgowan.donna@epa.gov.

AF&PA seeks nominations for 2010 Recycling Awards

The **American Forest & Paper Association** is seeking nominations for its 2010 Recycling Awards. The awards program is designed to increase recycling rates of paper. The organization estimates that in 2008, 57.4% of the nation's paper was recovered for recycling. The industry has set a recycling goal of 60% by 2012.

Awards are given for business, community, and K-12 school programs. **Entries must be submitted no later than Feb. 9.** Award winners will be announced in March. Winners will be featured in the AFPA's publicity programs and will also receive a cash prize.

More information is available at www.paperrecycles.org.

New EPA Web Site - Tools to Cut Energy Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Homes

Home owners, buyers and renters have a new resource for going green indoors and outdoors. EPA's new **Green Homes Web site** will help people make their homes greener with tips on reducing energy consumption, carbon footprints, waste generation and water usage, as well as improving indoor air quality.

The latest federal survey of American housing (2007) reported 128 million housing units across the U.S., accounting for 21 percent of national energy use and 21 percent of all U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, the most common greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.

Many green building practices and technologies have yet to make a dent in the existing residential market, in part because it is hard for people to find clear, consolidated, readily accessible, and credible information. The Green Homes Web site addresses that need by providing guidance on approaches to greening each room of the home as well as the surrounding yard. Information also is available on building new homes and finding an energy efficient mortgage, which takes into account the savings derived from energy efficient homes to enable the applicant to qualify for better terms. Renters will find information to help them identify a green property before moving in and tips for working with their landlord to add green features to an existing property. Users can also find references, such as a list of common green home terms, and links to dozens of EPA Web sites with more specific information on a wide variety of green home topics.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes>

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